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### Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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1. (Currently amended) A self-authenticating article comprising:  
a plastic paper substitute adapted to retain various forms of indicia; and  
a authenticating means particularly adapted for revealing encoded, hidden indicia printed on a surface of said plastic paper substitute, said authenticating means defining an authenticating area which forms a unitary and integral structure in combination with said plastic paper substitute;  
wherein said authenticating area is positionable in juxtaposed relation to said encoded, hidden indicia thereby providing instant verification of the authenticity of said article.
  2. (Original) The self-authenticating article of claim 1 wherein said authenticating means comprises a decoding lens.
  3. (Original) The self-authenticating article of claim 2 wherein said lens is inlaid.
  4. (Original) The self authenticating article of claim 2 wherein said lens is preformed.
  5. (Original) The self authenticating article of claim 2 wherein said lens is produced by an intaglio engraving process.
  6. (Currently amended) The self-authenticating article of claim 1 wherein said encoded, hidden indicia comprises one or more digitally produced latent images, each of said images being encoded in accordance with particular parameters whereby decoding revelation of said encoded, hidden indicia is only achievable by a particularly programmed authenticating means.
  7. (Currently amended) The self authenticating article of claim 1 wherein said encoded, hidden indicia are printed on ~~associated with~~ said plastic paper substitute in accordance with parameters set forth by a computer implemented software program, said encoded, hidden indicia being characterized by one or more latent images visible only when viewed through said authenticating means ~~particularly adapted for revealing said hidden indicia~~.

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ai 8. (Original) The self authenticating article of claim 1 wherein said plastic paper substitute is selected from the group consisting of synthetic resin films having a high degree of writability and printability, laminate composite structures including combinations of paper and non-paper materials, latex saturated durable papers, coated polyolefin substrates formed from randomly dispersed and bonded polyolefin filaments, reinforced papers, and combinations thereof.

9. (Original) The self authenticating article of claim 1 wherein said article is selected from the group consisting of currency, stock certificates, bond certificates, special event tickets, tax stamps, official certificates, passports, bank and travelers checks, anti-counterfeiting labels, birth certificates, land deed titles, visas, food stamps, lottery tickets, driver's licenses, wills, coupons, rebates, contracts, test answer forms, invoices, inventory forms, and original artwork.

10. (Currently amended) A self-authenticating article comprising:

a plastic paper substitute adapted to retain various forms of indicia and including thereon

encoded, hidden indicia; and

[[a]] authenticating means particularly adapted for revealing said encoded, hidden indicia,

said authenticating means defining an authenticating area which forms a unitary and integral structure in combination with said plastic paper substitute;

wherein said authenticating area is positionable in juxtaposed relation to said encoded,

hidden indicia thereby providing instant verification of the authenticity of said article.

11. (Original) The self-authenticating article of claim 10 wherein said authenticating means comprises an optical viewing lens.

12. (Original) The self authenticating article of claim 11 wherein said optical viewing lens is inlaid.

13. (Original) The self authenticating article of claim 11 wherein said optical viewing lens is preformed.

14 (Original) The self authenticating article of claim 11 wherein said optical viewing lens is produced by an intaglio engraving process.

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15. (Currently amended) The self authenticating article of claim 10 wherein said encoded, hidden indicia comprises one or more digitally produced latent images, each of said images being encoded in accordance with particular parameters whereby decoding revelation of said encoded, hidden indicia is only achievable by a particularly programmed authenticating means.

ai 16. (Currently amended) The self authenticating article of claim 10 wherein said encoded, hidden indicia are printed on ~~associated with~~ said plastic paper substitute in accordance with parameters set forth by a computer implemented software program, said encoded, hidden indicia being characterized by one or more latent images visible only when viewed through said authenticating means ~~particularly adapted for revealing said hidden indicia~~.

17. (Original) The self authenticating article of claim 10 wherein said plastic paper substitute is selected from the group consisting of synthetic resin films having a high degree of writability and printability, laminate composite structures including combinations of paper and non-paper materials, latex, saturated durable papers, coated polyolefin substrates formed from randomly dispersed and bonded polyolefin filaments, reinforced papers, and combinations thereof.

18. (Original) The self authenticating article of claim 10 wherein said article is selected from the group consisting of currency, stock certificates, bond certificates, special event tickets, tax stamps, official certificates, passports, bank and travelers checks, and anti-counterfeiting labels, birth certificates, land deed titles, visas, food stamps, lottery tickets, driver's licenses, wills, coupons, rebates, contracts, test answer forms, invoices, inventory forms, and original artwork.

19. (Currently amended) A self-authenticating article comprising:  
a plastic paper substitute containing visible and encoded, hidden indicia; and  
[[a]] authenticating means particularly adapted for revealing said encoded, hidden indicia,  
said authenticating means defining an authenticating area which forms a unitary and  
integral structure in combination with said plastic paper substitute;  
wherein said authenticating area is positionable in juxtaposed relation to said encoded,  
hidden indicia thereby providing instant verification of the authenticity of said article.

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20. (Original) The self-authenticating article of claim 19 wherein said authenticating means comprises a optical viewing lens.

21. (Original) The self authenticating article of claim 20 wherein said optical viewing lens is inlaid.

a1 22. (Original) The self authenticating article of claim 20 wherein said optical viewing lens is preformed.

23. (Original) The self authenticating article of claim 20 wherein said optical viewing lens is produced by an intaglio engraving process.

24. (Currently amended) The self authenticating article of claim 19 wherein said encoded, hidden indicia comprises one or more digitally produced latent images, each of said images being encoded in accordance with particular parameters whereby decoding ~~revelation~~ of said encoded, hidden indicia is only achievable by a particularly programmed authenticating means.

25. (Currently amended) The self authenticating article of claim 19 wherein said encoded, hidden indicia are associated with said plastic paper substitute in accordance with parameters set forth by a computer implemented software program, said encoded, hidden indicia being characterized by one or more latent images visible only when viewed through said authenticating means ~~particularly adapted for revealing said hidden indicia~~.

26. (Original) The self authenticating article of claim 19 wherein said plastic paper substitute is selected from the group consisting of synthetic resin films having a high degree of writability and printability, laminate composite structures including combinations of paper and non-paper materials, latex saturated durable papers, coated polyolefin substrates formed from randomly dispersed and bonded polyolefin filaments, reinforced papers, and combinations thereof.

27. (Original) The self authenticating article of claim 19 wherein said article is selected from the group consisting of currency, stock certificates, bond certificates, special event tickets, tax stamps, official certificates, passports, bank and travelers checks, anti-counterfeiting labels, birth

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certificates, land deed titles, visas, food stamps, lottery tickets, driver's licenses, wills, coupons, rebates, contracts, test answer forms, invoices, inventory forms, and original artwork.

28. (Currently amended) A self-authenticating currency comprising:

a plastic paper substitute containing visible currency defining indicia and encoded, hidden currency authenticating indicia; and

a1 [[a]] authenticating means particularly adapted for revealing said encoded, hidden indicia,

said authenticating means defining an authenticating area which forms a unitary and integral structure in combination with said plastic paper substitute;

wherein said authenticating area is positionable in juxtaposed relation to said encoded, hidden indicia thereby providing instant verification of the authenticity of said currency.

29. (Original) The self-authenticating article of claim 28 wherein said authenticating means comprises a optical viewing lens.

30. (Original) The self authenticating article of claim 29 wherein said optical viewing lens is inlaid.

31. (Original) The self authenticating article of claim 29 wherein said optical viewing lens is preformed.

32. (Original) The self authenticating article of claim 29 wherein said optical viewing lens is produced by an intaglio engraving process.

33. (Currently amended) The self authenticating article of claim 28 wherein said encoded, hidden indicia comprises one or more digitally produced latent images, each of said images being encoded in accordance with particular parameters whereby decoding revelation of said encoded, hidden indicia is only achievable by a particularly programmed authenticating means.

34. (Currently amended) The self authenticating article of claim 28 wherein said encoded, hidden indicia are printed on ~~associated with~~ said plastic paper substitute in accordance with parameters set forth by a computer implemented software program, said encoded, hidden indicia

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being characterized by one or more latent images visible only when viewed through said authenticating means particularly adapted for revealing said hidden indicia.

a1 35. (Original) The self authenticating article of claim 28 wherein said plastic paper substitute is selected from the group consisting of synthetic resin films having a high degree of writability and printability, laminate composite structures including combinations of paper and non-paper materials, latex saturated durable papers, coated polyolefin substrates formed from randomly dispersed and bonded polyolefin filaments, reinforced papers, and combinations thereof.

36. (Original) The self authenticating article of claim 28 wherein said article is selected from the group consisting of currency, stock certificates, bond certificates, special event tickets, tax stamps, official certificates, passports, bank and travelers checks, anti-counterfeiting labels, birth certificates, land deed titles, visas, food stamps, lottery tickets, driver's licenses, wills, coupons, rebates, contracts, test answer forms, invoices, inventory forms, and original artwork.

37. (Withdrawn) A method for preventing counterfeiting of documents comprising:  
providing a plastic paper substitute adapted to retain various forms of indicia;  
providing a means particularly adapted for revealing hidden indicia, said means defining an authenticating area which forms a unitary and integral structure in combination with said plastic paper substitute; and  
applying indicia selected from the group consisting of visible indicia, hidden indicia and combinations thereof to the surface of said plastic paper substitute;  
whereby said authenticating area is positionable in juxtaposed relation to said hidden indicia thereby providing instant verification of the authenticity of said article.

38. (Withdrawn) The method of deterring counterfeiting in accordance with claim 37 wherein: said authenticating means provided comprises a optical viewing lens.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of deterring counterfeiting in accordance with claim 38 wherein said optical viewing lens is inlaid.

40. (Withdrawn) The method of deterring counterfeiting in accordance with claim 38 wherein said optical viewing lens is preformed.

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41. (Withdrawn) The method of deterring counterfeiting in accordance with claim 38 wherein said optical viewing lens is produced by an intaglio engraving process.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of deterring counterfeiting in accordance with claim 37 wherein said hidden indicia comprises one or more digitally produced latent images, each of said images being encoded in accordance with particular parameters whereby revelation of said hidden indicia is only achievable by a particularly programmed authenticating means.

43. (Withdrawn) The method of deterring counterfeiting in accordance with claim 37 wherein said hidden indicia are associated with said plastic paper substitute in accordance with parameters set forth by a computer implemented software program, said hidden indicia being characterized by one or more latent images visible only when viewed through said means particularly adapted for revealing said hidden indicia.

44. (Withdrawn) The method of deterring counterfeiting in accordance with claim 37 wherein said plastic paper substitute is selected from the group consisting of synthetic resin films having a high degree of writability and printability, laminate composite structures including combinations of paper and non-paper materials, latex saturated durable papers, coated polyolefin substrates formed from randomly dispersed and bonded polyolefin filaments, reinforced papers, and combinations thereof.

45. (Withdrawn) The method of deterring counterfeiting in accordance with claim 37 wherein said document is selected from the group consisting of currency, stock certificates, bond certificates, special event tickets, tax stamps, official certificates, passports, bank and travelers checks, anti-counterfeiting labels, birth certificates, land deed titles, visas, food stamps, lottery tickets, driver's licenses, wills, coupons, rebates, contracts, test answer forms, invoices, inventory forms, and original artwork.

46. (New) A self authenticating article comprising:  
a substrate having at least one printable surface portion capable of having encoded, hidden indicia printed thereon; and

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a lens attached to the substrate. the lens being configured for optically decoding encoded, hidden indicia viewed therethrough and being disposed so that the lens may be positioned to overlie the at least one printable surface portion so that encoded, hidden indicia printed on the at least one surface portion may be viewed through and decoded by the lens.

47. (New) A self authenticating article according to claim 46 further comprising encoded, hidden indicia printed on the at least one printable surface portion.

48. (New) A self-authenticating article according to claim 47 wherein the encoded, hidden indicia comprises a plurality of lines printed with a predetermined line frequency and the lens is a lenticular lens having a lens frequency corresponding to the line frequency.

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